

## REMARKS

### Claim Amendments and Rejections Under 35 USC 112 and 101

The rejections under sections 101 and 112 are overcome by the amendments.

In claim 18, the possible substituents were R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>6</sup> in the formulae, while R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>5</sup> only were defined; however they were defined together. It would have been clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the definition of all the groups together was intended and not only of R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>5</sup>, and thus, the definition should have included R<sup>6</sup> also. It is clear that the situation here is one where there is a typing error whose correction is also obvious.

### Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

The amendments overcome the rejections.

Kovaleva teaches the preparation of certain perfluoroalkylphosphonates by using NaOH. See reaction scheme on page 2245 and the first part of the experimental description on page 2247. Kovaleva does not teach or suggest using a) an alkaline earth metal hydroxide, b) an organometallic compound, or c) an organic base. Moreover, this reference does not teach the preparation of bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinates.

Pavlenko teaches the preparation of certain bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinates by the alcoholysis of acid chlorides. This is a completely different process than the claimed invention where a) an alkaline earth metal hydroxide, b) an organometallic compound, or c) an organic base is used.

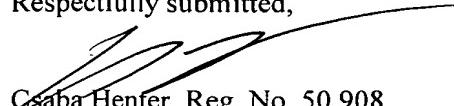
Thus, the combination of these references would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention as it does not teach or suggest the same.

The Office Action alleges that Pavlenko teaches the preparation of salts of perfluoroalkylphosphonate compounds. Applicants respectfully disagree. Pavlenko teaches the preparation of certain bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinates while Kovaleva teaches the preparation of certain perfluoroalkylphosphonates. Both the products of the two references and the methods of achieving them are different. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to consider the teachings of one of these references in conjunction or combination with the other. Thus, even if somehow the claimed invention may be pieced together from the disclosures of these references, which is not admitted, there is a lack of motivation for such a combination.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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